

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: GRO-00100

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method comprising the steps of:

- a. configuring the first and second surfaces to be in slidable contact with one another along an interface of a contact pad surface between the first surface and the second surface and under a force sufficient to maintain contact and having a static friction therebetween; and
- b. inducing a symmetrical motion in the first surface parallel to the interface thereby altering the effective coefficient of friction along the contact pad surface.

- (2) 3. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the first element comprises a set of dimensions, the method further comprising the step of varying a desired dimension of the first element in response to an electronic signal.
- (3) 4. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the step of varying the desired dimension further comprises providing a transducer having the set of dimensions, the transducer converting the electronic signal into microscopic mechanical displacements to generate the symmetrical motion.

103 (1) Claims 5-13 (Previously Withdrawn)

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14. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 2 further comprising the step of reducing an actual coefficient of friction between the first and second surfaces.
 15. (Previously Withdrawn)
 16. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 14 wherein the step of reducing the actual coefficient of friction further comprises applying a thin film of material of a predetermined thickness to at least one of the surfaces.
 17. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 16 further comprising the step of modifying the thin film by ion implantation of a predetermined number of ions/cm².

Claims 18-142 (Previously Withdrawn)

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(Currently Once Amended) A method of controlling an effective coefficient of friction between a first surface of a first element and a second surface of a second element, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. configuring the first and second surfaces to be in slidable contact with one another along an interface between the first surface and the second surface, wherein the interface is located only along an anti-nodal region of the first element, the first and second surfaces under a force sufficient to maintain contact at the interface and having a static friction therebetween; and
- b. inducing a repetitive motion in the first surface parallel to the interface thereby altering the effective coefficient of friction.

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(Currently Once Amended) A method of controlling an effective coefficient of friction between a first surface of a first element and a second surface of a second element, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. configuring the first and second surfaces to be in slidable contact with one another along an interface wherein the first surface protrudes from the first element an appropriate distance such that no motion perpendicular to the second surface is imparted to the second surface [[between the first surface and the second surface, the first and second surfaces under a force sufficient to maintain contact at the interface and having a static friction force therebetween]]; and
- b. Inducing a repetitive motion in the first surface parallel to the interface thereby altering the effective coefficient of friction, wherein the static friction force is unaltered.

Not disclosed
Position
Ratio